

# COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

June 2003

## Online Bidding Wars Save County Bucks

The County Department of Purchasing and Contracting has turned E-bay on its ear, and it's all in the name of saving tax dollars.

The department has a new addition to the tool bag it uses to purchase goods and services for other County departments. It's called a reverse auction, and so far, it's saved more than \$150,000.

"It's just a fantastic tool the Purchasing and Contracting folks can use to drive down costs to save money in these tight budget times," said Winston McColl, director of Purchasing and Contracting.

As McColl explains it, reverse auction is the opposite of E-bay: rather than one seller and a number of buyers, there is one buyer and a number of sellers. If the sellers want to make the sale, they have to beat the price of their competitor.

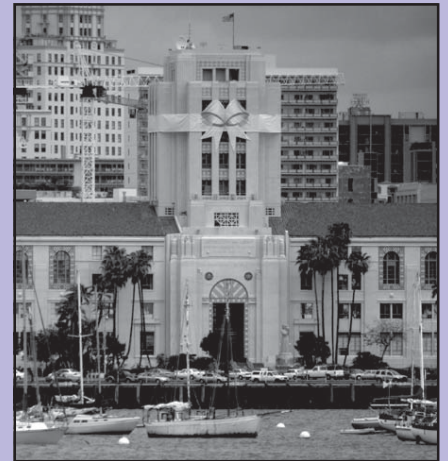
The auction is conducted over the Internet, with the aid of special software and a company that acts as an "electronic auctioneer." First, the vendors are approached lined up to participate. They are

given the software, which allows them to practice before the actual auction. At the date and time of the auction, the bidders sign on and begin entering their best price for the particular commodity. Once the lowest bid is reached, the auction ends.

So far, the County has conducted two reverse auctions, one in November and one in January. Both have involved purchases of new vehicles. The first was an order for undercover vehicles for the District Attorney's office. About 15 vehicles were purchased, at an estimated savings of \$12,000 to \$15,000 over traditional methods.

The second was in January, and involved Ford Crown Victoria sedans for the Sheriff's Department, Ford Tauruses for the County fleet and Ford Expeditions. A total of 197 vehicles were purchased at a price of \$3.8 million. Purchasing and Contracting estimates that \$75,000 was saved, which will be doubled to \$150,000 because the contract runs for two years.

(continued on page 3)



### Fit to be Tied

*Tony Orlando would have been proud. In early May, workers tied a yellow ribbon 'round the CAC to welcome back our troops as they returned from duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Chairman Greg Cox and Vice Chairwoman Dianne Jacob led a celebration on Sunday, May 4, of the completion of the project, which was sponsored by the Sycyan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and the military family support group Operation Homefront.*

## Veterans Services Helps Girl Achieve Dream of Attending College

On June 14, one journey ends and another begins for San Diego native Melanie Evangelista. That's the day she graduates from UCSF with a degree in dentistry.

Her dream to become a dentist may have never been realized had it not been for the work of the County's Veterans Services Office. The office provides advocacy and assistance for veterans and their dependants and widows.

"Without their help, I don't know how we'd be able to go through this," Melanie's mother, Melendre, said. The Veterans Services office helped them through the process of enrolling each year in a state-run college tuition waiver program for dependents and widows of veterans.

About 5,000 students in San Diego County participate. To be eligible, the veteran must have a disability and meet certain income requirements. Although the



Melanie and Melendre Evangelista

County doesn't fund the program, it would be much harder for local students to apply if the office didn't exist.

Evangelista found out about the program soon after her husband died in 1977 — her

daughter was only 14 months old. As a single mom, Evangelista struggled to raise her daughter and both have worked hard for Melanie to have "something better."

"As a single mom, I am very proud of what she has accomplished," Evangelista wrote to Veterans Services earlier this year. "It is inspiring to go through life as we learn and work hard to be able to 'feel triumph of hope against despair, of love against apathy and courage against the ills brought by poverty and hardship.'"

The college tuition waiver program is just one of the many services the office provides to local veterans. With 293,000 veterans living in San Diego, the office is the busiest by far in California.

Last year the eight-person staff assisted more than 11,000 people, just about a 33 percent more than the next busiest office in California (Los Angeles).

## NewsBriefs

### Positive Possibilities

The County's Foster Youth Mentor Program is taking applications for its next training on July 12. The program has 150 active members—12 of whom are County employees—and matches caring adults with foster children. Mentors provide the children with a supportive and enriching one-on-one relationship that will aid in developing self-esteem. Activities may include providing transportation, tutoring, and social or educational outings. Anyone interested should call Janette Kutchins, mentor coordinator, at (858) 616-5930 for an application packet.

### Trash into Treasure

DPW's Administrative Support section has come up with a creative way to keep otherwise unwanted items from salvage or the landfill. The DPW eTrader comes out once a month, and it shows office items that various DPW sections don't need anymore. The items can range from office supplies to furniture to electric pencil sharpeners. Most of the items can simply be picked up by their new owners; a transfer request form must be filled out for items valued at \$100 or more. In its first month, the program generated \$738 in savings. The sections taking the items save money, while those giving up the goods get some extra space and the satisfaction that their items will be put to good use.

### Must See TV

Two new programs on CTN (County Television Network) give viewers the lowdown on West Nile virus and the best way to turn any back yard into a garden paradise. "Fight the Bite —West Nile Virus" gives practical information to protect you and your family if and when this disease reaches our region. "Down to Earth" is a gardening show with a San Diego County perspective. Horticulturist Tom Piergrossi tells viewers how to get the best from San Diego's soil, climate and vegetation for a beautiful and relaxing garden. Check out [www.ctn.org](http://www.ctn.org) for schedule information.

### Team Triumph

Team San Diego was a stand-out at the Balboa Park WalkAmerica Event for March of Dimes on April 27. With bright Hawaiian blue T-shirts, the group of about 125 Team County walkers was easy to spot. The next week, 25 Team County walkers braved chilly, rainy weather to walk through Legoland. Numbers aren't final, but the preliminary estimate is that the County walkers brought in over \$12,400. That, in addition to \$27,000 in candy, bean bag bear sales and other Team County donations, means the County is gaining quickly on its \$45,000 goal. March of Dimes saves babies through neonatal care units, public education campaigns and research funding. For more information on March of Dimes and its accomplishments, contact Donna Turbyfill at (858) 505-6470.

See the online version of County News for more News Briefs



## In Walt's Words

### Preventing Injuries Makes Sense

Workplace injuries are bad news all around. For the employee, they mean missed work, inconvenience and personal discomfort. For the employer, they translate into additional costs, staffing headaches and lowered productivity.

Here at the County of San Diego, we are planning to launch during the next fiscal year a renewed effort to improve safety in the workplace, which will affect every department across the board. Our primary goal is to prevent workplace injuries, which will enhance quality of life for employees and allow us to provide the best possible services to the public for the lowest cost.

This new program will include training and education and may include incentives for departments that improve their safety record. County employees will be seeing posters, e-mails and perhaps even receive a visit from a specialist who will work with you to improve safety and avoid injuries at your workplace. A safety video will also be produced to help us get the message out.

There are many reasons to do this. First and foremost, all of you deserve a safe place to work, where the likelihood of injury is reduced as much as possible. Injuries not only have a negative effect on your job, they can also impact the quality of your home life.

Of course, there are also economic factors to consider. The money spent on medical treatment for workplace injuries, and salary compensation for employees who are temporarily unable to work, could be spent on direct services to County residents. So, injuries take away from what we can accomplish as Team County, and what we can do for the people who depend on us.

The County isn't the only large organization confronting this problem. California has the highest workers' comp costs in the nation, including insurance premiums paid by businesses and government agencies. The problem is so severe that as many as 60 pieces of state legislation intended to "fix" the workers' comp system in California have been introduced this year by members of both major parties.

All of you and your departments have done a lot in recent years to improve workplace safety and prevent injuries. I know that we can do more, and that is what I am asking. It begins with common sense: if you see someone standing on a chair with casters, or you see a puddle of water in a hallway, do what you can to make the situation safer.

By the way, June is National Safety Month. So, have a good, safe month, and I'll talk to you soon.

Walt Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer

# The Supervisor's View



By Supervisor Pam Slater

Part of an ongoing series by the Board of Supervisors.

Being a government employee in the state of California isn't easy these days. Financial troubles at the state level are causing a ripple effect that feels more like a tsunami to the employees of the hundreds of cities, counties, school districts, and colleges that rely on the state for large parts of their budget.

Unfortunately, sunshine and surf do not make the County of San Diego immune to these problems. While our local economy has held up relatively well during the recession of the past two years, the rest of the state has not. This downturn has been coupled with the inability of politicians in Sacramento to set priorities, control spending, and restructure the fundamentals of our tax code to ensure more predictable revenue flows.

Fundamentals are not something that trouble San Diego County. Following the recession of the early-1990s, the County began a process that was meant to protect it against the dramatic fluctuations in tax revenues that are part of every recession. This was done by putting into place wide-ranging reforms that improved services to the public at reduced cost. These included a major restructuring of county administration.

In addition, our policy of fiscal restraint, which discouraged spending "one-time" money on programs that had ongoing costs, helped to balance our budget. But most importantly, a partnership between the Board and employees has instilled a "can-do" atmosphere in which achievement is commonplace.

These changes have been good for county residents and employees alike. Because of our improved financial condition, the County has been able to provide it workers with expanded retirement benefits, interest-free loans for computers, monetary rewards for money-saving improvements (DIBBS), and free flu shots.

It is also because of our fiscal prudence that we have been able to minimize any reductions in staff during this budget crisis.

As the old saying goes, "Things are bad all over." And I might add that they could be for some time. But as tough as things get, County employees can take heart that the Board of Supervisors has prepared for this crisis. Whatever the future holds, we will continue to consider the interests of our employees—the county's most important asset—as paramount.

Together we have weathered many storms, and we will weather this one. Even a tsunami can't break up our partnership.

## [ Ver•ba•tim ]

Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

**Lizza Delacruz, Sandy Woodhouse** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) and **Nenita de Jesus** (Auditor & Controller) received high praise from an official with a local city for educating him about the County's assessed value and accounting reports.

"I have three letters to describe your customer service at the County, W-O-W!"

**Cresnel Irwin** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) helped a woman who needed to update her property deed to reflect that she is the sole owner.

"It is not only necessary to be competent in terms of productivity as an employee, but being a genuinely kind and caring human being is a wonderful plus (that) employers like you should treasure."

**John Edwards** (Public Administrator) was thanked for helping a man deal with his brother's estate.

"I am sure you went above and beyond your duty in helping us out. It is rare to find someone as kind and helpful as you are."

**Barbara Shipp** (HHSA) was commended for helping a woman and her mother during a CMS eligibility appointment.

"She has a very comforting manner and we could tell that she is sincerely dedicated to helping people."

**Alta Stengel** (Air Pollution Control District) was praised for her assistance in answering complex regulatory questions for a customer.

"Alta is a highly motivated and technically competent professional who excels at customer service."

**Gloria Isaacs-Giraldi** (HHSA, Child Welfare Services) received gratitude for helping a brother and sister remain with their grandfather.

"I am so grateful for your 'going the extra step.' I am sure you can be proud that your efforts allowed the children to remain with their family."

**Kimberly Stead** (HHSA, North Central Region) was thanked for helping a client's parents apply for Medi-Cal.

"It is not every day that you encounter someone kind, helpful, professional and willing to go that extra mile for a total stranger. The special person I am referring to is your employee, my guardian angel, Kim Stead."

Check out the online version of County News for more Verbatim.

## Reverse Auction

(continued from page 1)

Ed Alvarez, the department's senior vehicle buyer, said the competition by Ford dealers was intense.

"It was very interesting to watch these people out there trying to cut each other's throats," Alvarez said.

Observers from local cities were on hand to watch the auction unfold on a large screen in a conference room at Purchasing and Contracting. There were also inquiries from other government agencies, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Although the technique is widely used by private companies and Federal agencies such as the U.S. Navy, it has not been used before in San Diego County, said Alvarez.

Next up may be a reverse auction to bid on a construction projects of \$50,000 or less. The department is also looking into buying the software and running the online auctions itself. Either way, reverse auctions are likely to be a mainstay of the County's efforts to cut costs while delivering top-notch services.

"It's the way of the future," said Alvarez.

# NEWSMakers NEWSMakers

**Dr. Thomas G. Splitgerber**, the former chief executive officer for the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park, has been hired as the new director for the County's Veterans Services, a program that serves an average of 17,000 veterans and their families each year. Dr. Splitgerber, a dentist, is also a veteran. He served in the military for 30 years, with 15 of those years in various executive positions for the Naval Medical Department, including as commanding officer of San Diego's Naval Dental Center from 1992 to 1995.

**Dr. Glenn N. Wagner**, director of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C., will become the County's Chief Medical Examiner when he retires from the U.S. Navy in June. Wagner will replace Dr. Brian Blackburn, who is retiring after 13 years at the County. Wagner is a Navy Captain, and in his present post, he is the senior forensic pathologist for the Department of Defense. His military career spanned 33 years. He has conducted or supervised more than 8,000 autopsies, and has extensive experience in state

and federal courts as an expert witness.

**Kat Major**, R.N., HSA, was a finalist in the Leadership category in the Nurseweek Nursing Excellence Awards in April. She is a team leader and supervisor for the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT). She serves as leader, trainer, mentor and expert resource to a multi-disciplinary team that spans mental health and law enforcement.

The Food and Housing Division of Environmental Health cleaned up at a recent awards ceremony hosted by the California Environmental Health Association. **Ricardo (Ric) Encarnacion** won the Stuart E. Richardson, Sr. Award for his development of a model program for a school district to ensure food safety; **Heidi Sundberg** won the Distinguished Service Award for her many years of outreach to the academic community; **Julayne Gath** was named Environmental Health Specialist of the Year for her active leadership and involvement while supporting the registered environmental health specialist; and **Julie Degraw** was selected as the state association's delegate to an annual educational symposium in Lancaster, England.

## County Worker Watches Words Come to Life

Leslie Ridgeway's professional career has taken her from public relations to journalism and back to public relations. But her passion has always been a different kind of writing.

"I can remember writing plays when I was a kid and performing them when I was in school," said Ridgeway, who works for the Health and Human Services Agency Office of Media and Public Affairs.



Leslie Ridgeway

Last month, she had the opportunity to see her words come to life. "Chocolate Covered Love," a one-act play she recently wrote, was a part of the Festival of One Acts put on by the Actors Alliance of San Diego. The festival featured 25 one act plays over six nights.

Although she had done some stage acting as a hobby, her writing (outside of work) had fallen by the wayside once she graduated from college. Then 1998 she found a story on an old computer that she had written a long time ago.

"I was reading it and really getting into it," Ridgeway said. "It ended without any ending, and when I went to save it, the computer ate it."

She wrote down the idea and later picked it up when she started a screenwriting class.

"The teacher gave us an assignment to write 15 pages of an idea," Ridgeway said. "I gave the first pages and everybody laughed where they were supposed to laugh. I thought 'Gee, I think I've got something.'"

With much persistence Ridgeway finished her screenplay, as well as a few short stories and has even started a novel. Her goal is to start marketing her work and write more plays.

"They say that artists are artists because that's what they have to do," Ridgeway said. "And I kind of feel at this point this is what I have to do. I held myself back for a long time because I didn't think I could. I've now reached a level of maturity where I think I could."

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

### Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1  
Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Pam Slater, District 3  
Ron Roberts, District 4  
Bill Horn, District 5

### Chief Administrative Officer

Walter F. Ekard

This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.



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Joe Tash, Editor

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## A Message from Board Chairman Greg Cox

Thanks to the help of County employees, a record 1,143 blood donors turned out for the County's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Blood Drive in April. Overall, 828 units of blood were collected, with the potential of helping 2,384 lives.

A special thank you to all employees and employee organizations that contributed to

the Blood Drive. I'd also like to recognize all the participants who helped jump start the blood drive at the Kickoff Event including Ron Cottingham, President of the Deputy Sheriffs' Association and Mary Grillo, Executive Director of SEIU Local 2028. This year was the most successful County Blood Drive ever.

# COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

## Service Awards

Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones in June:

### 30 years

Benjamin A. Trovaten (Treasurer-Tax Collector)  
Robert L. Hudson (Sheriff)  
Mary Gouveia Walsh (Sheriff)  
Jon T. Rollin (Public Works)  
Michael C. Koch (Public Works)  
Thomas R. Parry (Public Works)  
Martin B. Steele (Public Works)  
Alfred Medina (HHSA)  
Patricia A. Gehris (Superior Court)  
Daniel W. Pledger (Superior Court)

### 25 years

Philip A. Lotze (County Counsel)  
Maria Lopez-Rubio (Public Works)  
Linda K. Schaffer (Superior Court)

### 20 years

Ivelyn Scott (Sheriff)  
Daniel G. Lamborn (District Attorney)  
Patricia G. Laru (Probation)  
Elisa O. James (County Library)  
Charlotte J. Dunning (HHSA)  
Patricia A. Murrin (HHSA)  
Merle F. Celis (Superior Court)  
James L. Duchnick (Superior Court)  
Jacqueline Fisher (Superior Court)  
Deborah L. Pienknagura (Superior Court)

## In Memoriam

Patricia J. Alford (Farm & Home Advisor, 1999)	2/18	Marion N. Noble (Lueg, 1978)	4/15
Carmen A. Bayne (Auditor & Controller, 1992)	2/11	Robert C. Parkinson (Air Pollution, 1980)	4/14
Roy E. Bevins (Transportation, 1981)	4/06	Winifred W. Plausse (Probation, 1977)	3/31
Merle T. Bradley (County Clerk, 1978)	4/01	Don H. Traver (Public Works, 1987)	3/22
Ethel Joray Bryant (Municipal Court, 1998)	7/10	Orville K. West (Transportation, 1976)	4/21
Herman Garcia (Revenue & Recovery, 1973)	4/21	Ellen L. Wooters (HHSA, 1998)	3/28
Paul Hamilton (Coroner, 1985)	4/05	James T. Wulf (Welfare, 1976)	3/27
Ethel Knowles (Juvenile Hall, 1989)	3/26		

Our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of County employees William F. Quinn (4/2) and Gary M. Tarman (3/6).

*County News Extra* includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered for either *County News* or *County News Extra*, please contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4627 or e-mail at [countynews@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:countynews@sdcounty.ca.gov). Items can also be faxed to (619) 595-4664 or mailed to MSA-359, Attn: *County News*.

## Retirements

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Frank Adams (Sheriff)	Donna M. Garrett (Superior Court)	Paul M. Morley (District Attorney)
Eliseo Afenir (HHSA)	Ronny L. Geller (Community Services Group)	Teresa A. Morris (Air Pollution Control District)
Dorothy Agnew (HHSA)	Teresa Gersch (Sheriff)	Earl F. Murphy Jr. (Sheriff)
Joanne Albus (HHSA)	Rosalid Gibson (Alternate Public Defender)	Daniel Murphy (HHSA)
Ariana Almajan (Planning & Land Use)	Rodney Gilmore (Sheriff)	Elizabeth W. Murray (HHSA)
Christopher N. Andrews (Sheriff)	Celestine Hairston (Superior Court)	Jeanette O'Brien (HHSA)
Allen A. Andrus (Sheriff)	Gerald L. Hall (Public Defender)	Ignacio Orias (Probation)
Arthur Babbitt (HHSA)	Larry Hanson (District Attorney)	Paula Orlando (HHSA)
Frank R. Baird (Public Defender)	Donna L. Harris (Public Defender)	Teresa A. Osburn (County Library)
Judith E. Sherman-Baker (Sheriff)	Garrett M. Hatcher (Sheriff)	Rebecca Parada (County Counsel)
Orlando Barajas (Probation)	Gerald M. Hermanson (General Services)	William N. Parr Jr. (Parks & Recreation)
Thomas A. Beltz (Superior Court)	Jo Herrin (Superior Court)	Andrea Parr (Registrar of Voters)
Nancy Bonini (HHSA)	Nancy Hicks (Probation)	Raymond Pascua (Public Works)
Jerry Bourgeois (HHSA)	Myhue Thi Ho (District Attorney)	Bruce Pennings (Sheriff)
Anita L. Boyer (HHSA)	Karen A. Holgate (Public Safety Group)	Perla A. Perales (HHSA)
Arthur C. Boyer (General Services)	Allen Holmquist Jr. (Public Works)	Stephen Perone (Sheriff)
Thomas Brown (County Counsel)	Shirley J. Hulett (General Services)	Roseanne C. Perrone (HHSA)
Gloria Bryngelson (HHSA)	Thomas M. Isom (HHSA)	John Peterson (Planning & Land Use)
Marjorie C. Calvert (District Attorney)	Van R. Jackson (HHSA)	Vina Phelps (HHSA)
Lawrence E. Carolan (Probation)	Brent Johnze (Public Works)	Leah Pierce (HHSA)
James S. Cavey (Probation)	James R. Jones (Probation)	Robert W. Powell (Auditor & Controller)
Joaquin M. Ching (Sheriff)	Dan W. Jopes (Sheriff)	Frank E. Reid (District Attorney)
Darlene Clancy (General Services)	Leann J. Julian (HHSA)	Lisa Richards (HHSA)
Maria M. Clarkson (HHSA)	Kendal Karnes (Public Works)	Pamela Riggan (Sheriff)
Cynthia Clasen (Superior Court)	Beverly Kaye (Human Resources)	Theodore Roberts (Animal Services)
Dorothy H. Cobb (District Attorney)	Joan Knight (Probation)	Gayle L. Rolan (District Attorney)
Richard A. Cobb (Public Works)	Christopher J. Lawson (HHSA)	Charles E. Rudolph III (Probation)
Gail F. Cooper (HHSA)	Milton Leahy (Sheriff)	Sandra Russell (HHSA)
Barbara C. Coovrey (Superior Court)	Sharon L. Lee (Superior Court)	Patricia Scobba (HHSA)
Charles W. Cross (Sheriff)	Franklin Lehr (Sheriff)	Karyn E. Simms (HHSA)
Terrance J. Daly (Probation)	George Lejeck (Sheriff)	Deirene M. Sims (Superior Court)
Sandra D. Downs (Superior Court)	Marianne Lias (HHSA)	Preston J. Skill (Sheriff)
George Ducich (Superior Court)	Robert L. Locke (District Attorney)	Lawrence L. Snooks (Auditor & Controller)
Deborah Duesler (Probation)	Leah M. Long (HHSA)	Jeanellen St. Laurent (Sheriff)
David M. Ebert (District Attorney)	Weley Luhr (Sheriff)	Jason Sullivan (Probation)
Lorna Edwards (HHSA)	Ronald Maki (HHSA)	Robert Sullivan (District Attorney)
Terry S. Everett (Assessor)	Maria S. Malonzo (General Services)	Nancy J. Swofford (Superior Court)
Tony Fant (Sheriff)	Carolyn S. Martinez (Probation)	David L. Thomas (HHSA)
Alice W. Felix (Probation)	Hernan Martinez (Purchasing & Contracting)	Carol J. Thompson (District Attorney)
John Fisher (Sheriff)	Alyce Masters (District Attorney)	Harry I. Trout (Public Works)
Gloria I. Fishkin (Planning & Land Use)	Carol A. Mauro (Superior Court)	Kathryn Warburton (HHSA)
George Flood III (Sheriff)	Robert L. McDowell (HHSA)	David E. Wilson (Sheriff)
Linda Fox (Air Pollution Control District)	John W. McKey (Probation)	
James M. Frank (HHSA)	Louis Miller (Parks & Recreation)	
Linda Fulton (Sheriff)		
Timothy J. Gamble (Sheriff)		

[ Ver•ba•tim ] *extra*

**Daneen Woods** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was complimented for her prompt and courteous assistance to a customer.

"Ms. Woods' attitude was both professional and friendly at the same time, and I felt that I was really receiving service on a personal level."

**Terri Goodwin** (Treasurer-Tax Collector) received kudos for assisting a couple with their property tax payment.

"Terri G. in Room 162 was so very helpful and kind in a recent problem we had getting our property taxes paid."

**Evelyn Riddick and Harold Randolph** (Clerk of the Board) received high marks from a County department head.

"Evelyn and Harold both went above and beyond when I asked them to expedite signatures on several grant documents. They were both just great and I was very appreciative."

**Christopher Kolesar** (HHSA, North Central Region) helped arrange for medical care during the final months of two clients' lives. A relative showed his appreciation.

"I highly commend this public servant and his effective performance of duty. Our government should be very proud of Mr. Kolesar."

**Olga Navarette** (HHSA) was complimented for her presentation about Medi-Cal to 50 Spanish-speaking family caregivers.

"Your organization is very fortunate to employ such a talented, knowledgeable and friendly individual."

**Aron Miller** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was commended by a customer for providing top-notch service.

"He truly is an asset to your customer service team and should be looked up to as a role model."

**David Cammall** (Environmental Health) was the subject of high praise for his assistance of an employee from another department.

"He is a County team player in the best sense."

**Don Anderson** (Public Works) received high praise for his prompt response to a homeowner's request for curb repair work.

"It's refreshing to come across people like him who take pride in their work along with the level of respect that he showed my wife and me."

**Lucy Siebern** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was considered instrumental in the recovery effort following a recent system failure.

"Throughout this process, Lucy showed strong leadership and remained calm and collected in a very dynamic evolving situation."

**Paul Damos** (DEH Vector Control) won over a County resident by enthusiastically providing information while responding to assist with a rat problem.

"I felt a genuine enthusiasm for his job and an honest will to do good for the community and distribute knowledge."

**Marci Gavino** (HHSA) earned praise for assisting a man whose prescription was no longer covered by Medi-Care.

"I truly hope you all understand what an excellent employee you have servicing those of us that are disabled or for whatever reason are in need of County assistance."

**Cyndi Forsythe** (District Attorney) was thanked by a stalking victim for her kindness and support.

"You were very supportive and very sweet to me. You are very good at what you do!"

**Richard Leneau** (Sheriff's Department) received the gratitude of a former jail inmate's mother for the counseling he provided to her son.

"Richard is truly an angel from heaven above who truly cares not only for his work but also for humanity."

## News Briefs Extra

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### Latino Association Installs Officers

The San Diego County Latino Association celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its annual installation banquet on April 26. On hand to congratulate the group were Board of Supervisors Chairman Greg Cox, CAO Walt Ekard and Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister. The new officers are Ricardo Cunningham, Treasurer/Tax Collector, president; Gustavo Godoy, Parks and Recreation, vice president; Elaine Lontoc, HHSA, secretary; and Carmen Perez, Treasurer/Tax Collector, treasurer. The group promotes education, mentoring and County government employment in the community.

### AFRAM Meeting

The African-American Caucus (AFRAM) of Service Employees International Union Local 2028 invites the Black Employees Association and all other interested parties to attend a meeting of AFRAM at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 28, at 4004 Kearney Mesa Road. AFRAM is committed to enhancing opportunities for education, training and career advancement of SEIU members and staff of African descent. The Caucus is established to provide networking, mentoring and other tools necessary to develop leadership that will have a positive impact on our families, communities, and union, while achieving personal and professional excellence. For more information, please contact Kathleen McGlown, (619) 531-5165.

### Fun With Plastic Bricks

County employees with a coupon can get \$10 off admission to Legoland during the month of July. The park is located in Carlsbad, just 30 minutes north of San Diego. The park invites you to enjoy a full day of adventure on more than 50 kid-powered rides, shows and attractions including Driving School, Miniland and the Lego Technic Coaster. The offer is available through the Do It Better by Suggestion, or DIBBS program. Coupons are available from your department's DIBBS coordinator, or call the DIBBS office at (619) 578-5781.

### Employees Dive in to Clean Water Activities

Clean water is everyone's responsibility — that's why folks with Project Clean Water are asking County employees to participate in Watershed Awareness Week, June 16-20.

With an ever-growing population and a lack of understanding about how our actions affect our waterways, San Diego is experiencing a greater amount of water pollution and an increase in beach closures. The idea is that if County employees increase their awareness about water quality issues and achieve a greater understanding about watersheds they will become good stewards and in turn will be able to go out and share with the public at large as they go about their work.

On Monday, June 16, employees are invited to attend a kick-off event at the County Administration Center. Displays include information about watersheds, pollution prevention and recycling, and the opportunity to see one of the County's most important tools for keeping storm drains clear—the vac truck. The week culminates on Friday with the 2003 Clean Water Summit, which is open to the public. For more information, go to the Project Clean Water Web site at [www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org).

### See You At The Emmys

County Television Network (CTN), the local government access channel of the County of San Diego, has received five Emmy nominations from the San Diego/Southwestern Area chapter of the National Association of Television Arts & Sciences. The nominated programs include "County Chronicles," a segment called "Backstage at the Opera," "San Pasqual Academy: A Brand New Hope," and two public service announcements, "Personal Ad — A Wild One," and "Smart Kid — I Went to the Library." The Emmy awards will be presented in San Diego on June 21 at the U.S. Grant Hotel.